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AF/C:ARENDER

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115709

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, ET, TZ, UG, CG, EG, FR, BE, SZ

SUBJECT: RPF GENERAL KAGAME SEES UNHCR TEAM VISIT AS
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FASTEAST MEANS TO END MASSACRES

REF: (A) STATE 114678 (B) STATE 114677 (C) STATE 114636

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 1, RPF COMMANDING GENERAL PAUL KAGAME TOLD AS DAS BUSHNELL THAT THE IMPENDING VISIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM FROM UNHCR MAY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MECHANISM AT HAND TO HALT MASSACRES HE CLAIMED WERE CONTINUING IN GOR CONTROLLED TERRITORY. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SEND A STRONG MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDERING THE MASSACRES THAT THEY

CANNOT KILL WITH IMPUNITY. A COMBINED UN/CLAS/ASSOCIATED OAU
INTERVENTION FORCE TO PROTECT REFUGEES WAS ALSO ACCEPTABLE
TO THE RPF; CONTINUING TO USE SYG REP BOOH BOOH AS A
MEDIATOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS NOT. KAGAME CONFIRMED
THAT FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING IN KIGALI EVEN AS UNAMIR
GENERAL DELLAIRE CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO SEEK AGREEMENT
TO A CEASE-FIRE. KAGAME REITERATED THAT THE RPF WAS
KEEPING THE BORDER TO TANZANIA OPEN AND PLEDGED HE WOULD
SAFE GUARD THE LIVES OF RWANDANS AND RELIEF PERSONNEL IN
AREAS UNDER HIS CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

2. AS HE HAD PROMISED BUSHNELL ON APRIL 30, KAGAME
TELEPHONED ON MAY 1 TO DISCUSS WAYS TO END THE ON-GOING
MASSACRES AND ACHIEVE A CEASE FIRE. HE STRESSED THAT HIS
FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS SAVING PEOPLE'S LIVES. MANY IN GOR
CONTROLLED TERRITORY CONTINUE TO HIDE OUT IN THE BUSHES,
HE SAID; WHAT WAS SAVING THEM WAS THEIR OWN DETERMINATION
TO FIGHT AND THE GOR DECISION TO PLACE GENS D'ARMES ON THE
FRONT LINES RATHER THAN TO USE THEM AS HUNT CIVILIANS. HE
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EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE TOWNS
OF BUTARE AND CHYANGUGU, AND FOR THOSE TRAPPED IN THEIR
HOMES IN KIGALI AND IN THE HOTEL MILLE COLLINES. UNAMIR
GENERAL DALLAIRE'S EFFORTS TO SECURE A SAFE PASSAGE FROM
THE GOR FOR KIGALI AND MILLE COLLINES RESIDENTS HAD NOT
BEEN SUCCESSFUL, KAGAME SAID.

3. KAGAME REFEATED HIS ASSERTION OF APRIL 30 THAT A CEASE
FIRE WOULD NOT STOP THE CIVILIAN MASSACRES BEHIND GOR
LINES. THIS WAS WHY THE RPF HAD CONDITIONED ITS AGREEMENT
TO A CEASE FIRE ON AN END TO THE KILLINGS, HE SAID. THE
GOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS CALLED FOR THE RPF TO RETREAT
BACK TO LINES HELD BEFORE THE APRIL 6 PLANE CRASH (ALONG
THE UGANDA BORDER). A MOVE THE RPF WILL NOT CONSIDER.
THAT SAID, KAGAME ASSURED BUSHNELL THAT HIS
REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH TANZANIAN PRESIDENT
MWONYIE TO CONFIRM RPF PARTICIPATION AT THE TALKS TO BE
CONVENED IN ARUSHA ON MAY 3.

4. BUSHNELL OUTLINED FOR KAGAME ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOS'D
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (REFTEL). KAGAME AGREED WITH
EACH OF THEM, ASSERTING THAT A COMBINED UN/OAU OR EVEN AN
OAU INTERVENTION FORCE TO PROTECT REFUGEES ON BOTH SIDES
OF THE RWANDAN BORDER WOULD MEET WITH RPF APPROVAL. HE

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EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTED ARMS
EMBARGO, STATING HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO SECURE AN EMBARGO
FOR SOME TIME. IN RESPONSE TO BUSHNELL'S QUESTION ABOUT
THE EFFORTS OF SYG REP BOOH BOOH, KAGAME SAID THAT BOOH
BOOH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE RPF AS A MEDIATOR.

5. AS A PRACTICAL MEANS TO END CIVILIAN KILLING
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IMMEDIATELY, KAGAME SAID A VISIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM
FROM THE UNHCR MIGHT DETER THE GOR FORCES FROM CONTINUING
THE MASSACRES. HE URGED THAT THE VISIT INCLUDE TRIPS TO
BUTARE, CHYANGUGU AND AREAS OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL WHERE
PEOPLE CONTINUE TO FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES. UNAMIR, HE SAID.
HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THOSE AREAS. KAGAME ALSO
STRESSED THAT THE TEAM SHOULD REQUIRE GOR PROTECTION, IN
ADDITION TO A UNAMIR ESCORT. ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL. IT
WAS CRITICAL THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEGIN
INVESTIGATIONS OF THE MASSACRES IMMEDIATELY, OR ELSE THEY
WOULD CONTINUE. KAGAME SAID THE TEAM WOULD BE WELCOMED
INTO RPF TERRITORY, ALONG WITH ANY RELIEF AGENCY THAT
SOUGHT ENTRY.

6. KAGAME STRESSED THAT ANOTHER WAY TO BRING THE
MASSACRES TO AN END QUICKLY WAS TO SEND THE WORD TO THOSE
IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE GOR THAT THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY WOULD NOT ALLOW THE KILLING OF INNOCENT
CIVILIANS TO CONTINUE WITH IMPUNITY. HE CLAIMED IGNORANCE
OF THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT OF APRIL 18 WHICH NAMED
NAMES. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE PRESIDENT
CLINTON'S RADIO ADDRESS OF APRIL 30.

7. BUSHNELL'S QUERY ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE BORDER WITH
TANZANIA MET WITH A STRONG ASSERTION THAT THE RPF WAS
KEEPING THE BORDER OPEN. KAGAME STATED THAT AFTER THEIR
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON APRIL 30 HE HAD CONFIRMED THAT
THE BORDER HAD NOT BEEN CLOSED. HE SAID THE RPF WAS ON
RECORD FOR HAVING REQUESTED THE GOT TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO
CROSS THE BORDER BOTH WAYS IN THE EVENT SOME WANTED TO

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RETURN TO RWANDA. REFUGEES STREAMING ACROSS UNCLASSIFIED
UNIMPEDED, HE NOTED INCLUDED INNOCENT CIVILIANS, CIVILIANS
THE RPF RECOGNIZED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN MASSACRES,
AND EVEN SOME GOR SOLDIERS.

8. SINCE KAGAME'S ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WAS A
MOBILE TELEPHONE NOT ALWAYS NEAR HIM, BUSHNELL ASKED THE
GENERAL TO CONTACT HER AGAIN ON MAY 2 TO REVIEW EVENTS OF
THE DAY. SHE STRESSED THAT IT WAS CRITICAL THAT THE RPF
CONTINUE TO KEEP ALL BORDERS UNDER THEIR CONTROL OPEN,
THAT THEY PROVIDE PROTECTION TO ANY RELIEF WORKERS SEEKING
ACCESS TO AREAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL, AND THAT THEY NOT
HARM UNARMED CIVILIANS. KAGAME SAID HE HAD BEEN DOING HIS
BEST IN EACH OF THOSE AREAS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

9. COMMENT: [redacted]

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[redacted] GIVEN
THAT KAGAME AND GOR CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL BIZIMUNGU
(WITH WHOM BUSHNELL SPOKE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MAY 1),
HAVE BOTH AGREED THAT A VISIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM
FROM UNHCR IS VITAL TO STOP THE MACCARES AND TO REVEAL
THE TRUTH, THIS VISIT SEEMS TO BE THE MOST SWIFT AND
EFFECTIVE MEANS AVAILABLE TO DETER CONTINUING VIOLENCE

AGAINST INNOCENT FEOFLE. END COMMENT

BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED TALBOTT

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